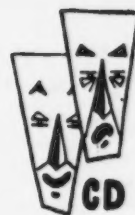


critical digest



139 East 47 St. NY 17 NY
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Jan 23, 1961 Vol XII No 44 The Weekly NYC Theatre Newsletter Digest Service-11th year- Published 52 weeks a year \$25 per year

This Week in NYC

Rhinoceros producer Leo Kerz continued his one man battle against "quote" ads by publishing 30,000 copies of a booklet containing reprints of the reviews of his productions, which will be available at the Longacre box-office. He also rejected plea of his cast to print selected quotes and/or full reprints of the notices for the Eugene Ionesco play. Kerz stated months prior to opening that he considered that "quote" ads distorted the critics' views. Hints of double picketing arouse when actors threatened to picket the home of the producer unless he let them pay for their own ad and when a women's club planned to picket the theatre if Kerz backtracked.

Plays

Shows that closed include- The Wall after 119 performances, The 49th Cousin after 100 performances, and The Conquering Hero after 7 performances. ... The Conquering Hero loss estimated at \$300,000, \$100,000 from ANTA. ... The Tenth Man moved to Ambassador from Booth and is now giving both Sun matinee and evening performances, dropping Mon evening. ... Midgie Purvis delayed from Jan 26 to Jan 30 at Beck. ... 13 Daughters set to open Mar 2 at 54th St Theatre. ... Mary, Mary to debut Mar 8 at Hayes Theatre. ... Go Show Me A Dragon, a new play by Gene Feldman will be presented next season by Derel Producing Assn.

Players

Tammy Grimes fainted during the first act of Fri performance of The Unsinkable Molly Brown, with understudy Iva Winters continuing the performance and also playing the following matinee. ... Willi Burke replaced Ellen Hanley, Fio-rello! ... Martin Wolfson to replace Lou Jacobi, Tenth Man. ... Audrey Christie resigned from Midgie Purvis during Washington tryout, and was replaced by Brenda Forbes. ... Claudette Colbert missed three performances of tryout tour of Julia, Jake and Uncle Joe in Philadelphia due to a torn ligament suffered on-stage, Frances Chaney subbed. ... Dran Seitz to move from Becket to The Happiest Girl in the World, musical which will feature Janice Rule. ... Kaye Ballard signed for Carnival. ... Roger Carmel, Roberta Nelson, Ryan McDonald signed for Once There Was a Russian.

New Dramatists

\$40,000 fund raising campaign of New Dramatist Committee aimed to 56 theatre groups, Virginia Kaye chairman.

NYC Calendar

The American Dream and Bartleby-York (64 & 1st Av)- 1/24. Theatre 1961-Richard Barr & Clinton Wilder- present twin bill. "The American Dream" a new short play by Edward Albee, directed by Alan Schneider with Tom Hunter, Sudi Bond, John Becher. "Bartleby" a new one act musical by William Flanagan based on a short story by Herman Melville, directed by Bill Penn with Robert Blossom, Bruce McKay.

The Octoroon- Phoenix -1/27. Phoenix Theatre presents third repertory program of season. Revival of 1859 melodrama by Dion Boucicault, directed by Stuart Vaughan with Juliet Randall, Robert Blackburn, Albert Quinton.

Julia, Jake and Uncle Joe- Booth-1/28. Roger Stevens- John Shubert present new comedy by Howard Teichmann, based on Oriana Atkinson's "Over at Uncle Joe's", directed by Richard Whorf with Claudette Colbert, Myles Easton, Don Briggs.

Theatre Book Notes

All the Way Home to be published by Ivan Oblensky in Mar. ... "Italian Comedy in Renaissance" by Marian T Herrick to be published by Univ of Illinois Press. ... Roots, Chicken Soup with Barley, and I'm Talking About Jerusalem, all by Arnold Wesker to be published Jan 27 in a "Wesker Trilogy" by Random House. ... "The Genuis of the Irish Theatre" with texts of 7 plays published by Mentor Paperbacks (75c)

Theatre Record Notes

MGM Records invested \$150,000 in Carnival and will issue original cast disc ... The Conquering Hero original cast album made by RCA Victor.

Theatre TV Notes

NBC TV Hall of Fame production of Time Remembered Feb 7 to include Barry Jones, Paul Hartman, Dame Edith Evans and Christopher Plummer.

Theatre Film Notes

Babes in Toyland starring Tommy Sands and Ed Wynn to be made by Walt Disney. ... The Music Man film version to feature Pert Kelton recreating her stage role.

Playbill

"Playbill" sold to Gilman Kraft by Producers Theatre-William Becker for \$180,000. Kraft has been publisher for past four years and plans to add editorial features in color soon. Circulation averages 250,000 weekly.

Off Broadway

Two new playhouses plan Mar 1 openings. St John Terrell will open his Nights at the Grand Guignol at the refurbished Magyar Reformed Church, 11th St and 2nd Ave, and Irving Maidman- Norman Twain will open Roots, Arnold Wesker's London hit drama, at the newly named Mayfair Theatre, in the basement of the Hotel Paramount, W 46th St. Twain who will be in charge of production for the uptown 299 seat house has formed an affiliation with six young directors to keep the new theatre open 52 weeks a year. Directors who will participate include- Word Baker, Lloyd Richards, Walt Whitcover, John Lehne, Tom Brennan and Mark Rydall, who will stage Roots.

The Tiger Rag by Seyril Schochen will be presented Feb 16 at Cherry Lane by TIRA Productions, directed by Ella Gerber, with music by Kenneth Gaburo. Play won 1957 Illinois Festival of Contemporary Arts Award. ... Double Entry, twin bill of musicals by Joy Thompson, to be presented Feb 20 at Martinique by Albert Lasker-Paul Lehman-Happy Medium, The Bible Salesman and "The Oldest Trick in the World" will be directed by Bill Penn with Rosetta LeNoire starred. ... Cicero moved debut from Feb 2 to Feb 8 at St Marks Theatre. ... The Moon in the Yellow River to open Feb 8 at East End Theatre. ... Medium Rare cancelled Feb 6 NY debut date and will continue in Chicago indefinitely. ... Oysters! revue at Village Gate to open Jan 31. ... Philoktetes, a new play by George Maxim Ross to be presented this spring by Harold Steinberg.

They Called Him Lincoln by Stuart Hamill to be presented for two Mon performances at Cherry Lane, Jan 23, 30.

George Jones signed for To Damascus. ... Kuldip Singh added to King of the Dark Chamber. ... Kay Chevalier and James Forster to portray leads in Cicero. ... Joan Hackett replaced Colin Wilcox, Call Me By My Right Name.

Theatre Ad Notes

"JFK Goes to Theatre On His Two Nights in NY" headlines ad of National Ticket Agency which asks public if it is going to theatre enough. ... All the Way Home display ad reports that advance sale for play is building steadily.

Special Events

Apr 23 NY Shakespeare Festival Dinner at Hotel Commodore, \$50 per ticket, hopes to raise \$25,000. Nancy Walker and Anthony Quinn will portray their favorite Bard roles.

((Late News & Reviews- Supplement))

The Conquering Hero- ANTA- 1/16-1/21, 3 pros- News, Journal American, World Telegram & Sun- and 4 cons- Times, Herald Tribune, Mirror, Post- filed on new musical based on "Hail the Conquering Hero" film with book by Larry Gelbart, music by Moose Charlap lyrics by Norman Gimbel. Produced under the management of Robert Whitehead and Roger Stevens for ANTA. Though program lists no credits, Albert Marre assumed direction after Bob Fosse left. Cast included Tom Poston, Lionel Stander, Kay Brown, Jane Mason. Affirmative voters and negative voters, with sole exception of Kerr, Herald Tribune, applauded cast members in general and Poston in particular, with most hoping that Poston will soon find good role in good show. Pro aisle-sitter Chapman, News, enjoyed frisky, funny inventive songs and dances and the delightful cast and sets in show which he recommended if theatre fan feels need to get cheered up. McClain, Journal American, cheered for utterly charming, fast-moving, unpretentious show in the old tradition offering the rarity of a good, workable little book, with an amiable and haunting score. Poston's performance will remain one of the marathon acrobatic and verbal feats in recent theatre annals, lauded McClain. In milder tone, Aston, WTS, settled for show with Poston until a better one for him comes along, though plot and frivolity are not properly balanced. Newcomer Kay Brown was picked by Aston as a sure future star. Negative voters generally did not think the musical as funny as the original Preston Sturges film, lacking the necessary hit elements to go over today. Taubman, Times, feared stage version was a dud, reflecting surface expertise, but lacking in any new ideas, and heavy handed instead of fun. Kerr, Herald Tribune, thought both book and Poston himself got lost in the placid and well-meaning, but unemphatic show. Coleman, Mirror, reported first nighters enjoyed show, but he felt hero had to struggle heroically to make laughs sprout where they really aren't in a show which the result leaves much to be desired. Watts, Post, did not see the film, but he panned the stage musical as astonishingly stale, flat and unprofitable, wasting Poston's talents as an expert farceur, a skillful leading man and an attractive all-around performer.

Donogoo- Greenwich Mews- 1/18, 2 pro- Times, Journal American- and 4 con- Herald Tribune, News, Post, World Telegram & Sun- filed on new play by Jules Romains, translated by James Gidney, presented by Stella Holt, directed by Adrian Hall with William Mulaney, Richard Woods, Ronald Bishop, Wells Richardson. French satire was credited by most with having a funny idea, but critics differed on how it was carried out. Pro reviewer Taubman, Times, enjoyed wild, discursive satire which is like a fluent talker with a lot to say and a witty, if aimless, way of saying it. Times man warned that if you are willing to sit still and listen you will find a good deal of it entertaining; he also praised the sprightly performances of the leading players. McClain, Journal American, credited exceptional cast with saving a mildly amusing evening, in which a funny idea falters, rambles and flies off at tangents. Dissenter Kerr, Herald Tribune, liked a few beguiling moments but marked the result a notions counter rather than a play, which falls apart in the second act because it has nothing left to say. Davis, News, thought play failed as burlesque. Aston, WTS, blamed excess of subjects the author is commenting on, so many the main lesson is often clouded, and an exclamatory company shouting through three elastic acts. Watts, Post, agreed author had a good comic idea but felt it is unfortunate that his play is fatiguing with more physical activity than humor, and is often foolish when it should have been pungent and amusing.

The Dossier- Unicorn Theatre (321 E 73) 1/14. Morello, World Telegram & Sun, vetoed Non-Equity cast performance of Polish post-war play by Tadeusz Rozewicz being presented week-ends only. Play emerges as an exercise in self-pity in which the actors strive valiantly. Cast directed by Alexander Wilson includes Peter O Boyle, Todd Pearce, Paula Martin.

"CD" Subscribers are invited to inquire further via mail or phone for more specific details of any current NY or out of town review, as well as any back review.



THEATRE
RECORD
COMMENTS

Irma La Douce original cast disc (Columbia) was applauded as sheer delight, surpassing the original stage production, by Crist, Herald Tribune. Marguerite Monnet's score emerges clearly in all its ultra-Parisian delicacy, unhampered by the over-production that weighs down the fragile story in its NY production... Camelot original cast disc (Columbia) finds stars in fine form anso the score, up to a point, rates Herald Tribune Arts Editor. Album at very least makes you realize that Frederick Loewe's score is undoubtedly the best of several seasons, and Alan Jay Lerner's lyrics have a smooth sophistication... On the Town album (Columbia) with Nancy Walker, John Reardon, Betty Comden, Adolph Green is a belated gem, approves Crist, with Leonard Bernstein's scrawly abridged score at his show music best and the lyrics of Comden and Green at their satire gayest.



THEATRE
TV
COMMENTS

Black Monday, an original play by Reginald Rose presented on WNTA (NY) Play of the Week prior to a possible Broadway production by David Susskind and Ralph Nelson drew 1 pro vote and 3 con votes from NY- TV reviewers. Cast included Pat Hingle, Myron McCormick, Nancy Coleman, Marc Connelly, directed by Nelson. Sole affirmative voter Bakal, Herald Tribune, admitted play on school desegregation does have some minor defect, but he marked it as one of the most important dramatic works to appear on TV in recent years, with a powerful, timely message. But Gould, Times, feared the separate segments of the story suffer from awkward redundancy and the characters are mere stereotypes using stilted dialogue. Gardella, News, thought that its sympathetic and important thesis deserves to be coached in more understanding and objective terms. O'Brian, Journal American, agreed play had heart in the right place, but thought it ended in a clumsy slice of dramatics with its stereotyped characters steeped in ugliness.



INTER-
VIEW
HI-LITES

CELESTE HOLM, Invitation to a March, believes that the best way to judge what an actor or actress is really like is by what they appear in, she told Watson, Journal American. Actress would not take a part unless it has something to say that she thinks is worth saying, and that is also right for her.

HOWARD DA SILVA, Fiorello!, finds it is much more difficult to sustain a role than to create it, he told Cleaves. It is an inconceivable strain to do something as if it was the first time eight times a week, to maintain that joie de vivre. Actor recommended that contracts between producers and directors require the latter to cover the show at least once a week.

JUDSON LAIRE, Advise and Consent, finds that his four brief scenes in the play as President give him a complete workout, he told Herridge, Post. He must convince the audience without scenery and without fanfare that he is the President and then convey four different moods in a matter of moments.

BARBARA BAXLEY, Period of Adjustment, accepted the role in the new Tennessee Williams play without reading the script, she told Ross, Herald Tribune. Williams picked her especially for this role as well as for the role of the gypsy girl in Camino Real.



GREEN
ROOM
DEPARTMENT



PROS & CONS BY TMK

LABELING SEASON...Current season viewed by Kerr, Herald Tribune, as the year of the play that comes within an inch of squeaking because it couldn't summon up that extra ounce of necessary nerve, and by Watt s, Post, as a season rich in the misconceptions it has given rise to. Herald Tribune man's list of very near misses includes- Send Me No Flowers and Rape of the Belt. A little more assertiveness, not just loudness, but the stubborn belief that won't take "maybe" for an answer, might salvage some of our admittedly middle-grade but still better than tolerable entertainments. Kerr advised. Post man's file of current major heresies includes the belief that all plays these days are about homosexuals, that plays about professional ladies of the evening are a new trend, and that audiences consider plays about death depressing theatrical experiences.

COLUMN TIPS...Second Camelot "opening" will be held after this month's daily rehearsals and rewriting with director Moss Hart, hears Graham, Mirror ... Rhinoceros producer sold a 1/2 unit share to a backer during the opening night intermission for \$1100 to complete the financing, reports Lyons, Post ... Judy Garland wants to star next season in London in The Unsinkable Molly Brown, notes McHarry, News.

HAIL TV BARD...BBC TV production series "Age of Kings" presenting Shakespeare's historical plays from Richard II to Henry VI, presented in NY and Washington, D. C. areas twice weekly cheered as a series unusual in its scope and subject matter by Times editorial. It is an event which is as exciting in anticipation as it will prove in fact.

CRITICAL THOUGHTS...Too many theatrical producers seem convinced that, as in the case of cylinders for autos, the fewer players in a show the better chance of getting mileage from a production, surmises Davis, News... Currently Leonardo Cimino, Montserrat, is the most dastardly villain eater on-stage, bills Aston, World Telegram & Sun... The Wall deserved to run another year, for the passion of the idea which informs it throughout, along with the direction and

LEGIT PREXYS...Either their minds did not run in the direction of theatre or they had an uneasy memory of what happened to Lincoln one when when he caught a show, but most of the men who occupied the White House in our time had no real interest in theatre, recalls Chapman, News. President Kennedy by setting an example may make playgoing fashionable.

DRAMA MAIL BOX...Herald Tribune reader does not think critics should be paid to ruin a competing art form, her comment to Crosby, Herald Tribune, recent attack on theatre. If there was a movement to shoot the critics, our theatres would thrive ... Times reader informs Taubman, Times, that Brecht's In the Jungle of Cities is clearly a mental drama in which all the characters symbolize conflicting aspects of a single personality.

SECOND GUESSES...Epitaph for George Dillon rated again after due consideration by McClain, Journal American, is a paltry play about a pretty limited fellow. Critic hopes author John Osborne who had a good play in Look Back in Anger will next time devote himself to a more entrancing hero.

EVERYBODY'S A CRITIC...Eugene Ionesco's daughter wants to be an actress, but her parents want her to make sure she has security, details Lyons, Post. So the girl has been permitted to act, but she must also study veterinary medicine.

Show Girl is a tiny, amazing, charming revue brilliantly showcasing the multiple talents of Carol Channing. Polished to the utmost after more than a year's tryout on the nightclub circuit the combination of inventive staging, wide variety of numbers, plus helpful support from Jules Munshin and the French quartet put this out of the class of the one-woman show into the field of lively theatre. Neither is it a "and then I made famous" song evening for the songs and sketches are build about original songs that sound as if they might have come from the period under discussion, but couldn't have had. The diverse musical characters by Channing are so distinct that it is easy to get the impression that this is an eight person revue, and not a two person revue. Jules Munshin is actually around to fill in time between Channing's costume changes, but does very well in this minor chore. He will simply have to wait his turn until "Show Man" gets written.

The Conquering Hero was a quiet, entertaining musical that was not outstanding in any single category, but was continually pleasing throughout, relaxing and enjoyably presented. The delightful cast of young comics made the spoof of a wartime hero very believable and convincing. The songs were pleasant, the lyrics at times very funny, and the plot not objectionable. But Broadway economics at a \$9.90 top with no box-office names involved demanded smash rave reviews for an immediate reaction. The \$300,000 investment did not include any spare moments for the show to catch on.

Montserrat is a spine-tingler that catches and holds the excitement of the audience within the first few moments of its start. A brilliant play directed and acted with a stimulating intensity that has the audience working as hard as the talented cast. A truly beautiful play on human rights in South America in 1812, it is still frighteningly timely and important today.

The best argument that there is no payola in legit theatre advertising is the wide amount of publicity space being devoted in all NY papers to the verbal battle between cast and producer of Rhinoceros. The more firmly producer Leo Kerz sticks to his "no quote ad" policy, the less advertising the daily papers will receive.

An unusual tone of violence is seen in the current week's theatre news. Talk of picketing in the Rhinoceros "quote ad" story may be truth or the over-active imagination of publicity wizards. But there were actual pickets, gas bombs and arrests in San Juan. And while it would be out of character, the letter writer to the Herald Tribune does threaten to shoot the critics.

Off Broadway, while shunned at the events in Washington this week, still has a fighting chance with the new administration. In the tons of stories about the likes and dislikes of Mr and Mrs. Kennedy it has been repeated many times that one of their favorite songs is "The Siren Song." This lovely piece from Leave It to Jane didn't make it to this inauguration, but it will certainly not miss the next.

League of NY Theatres might well ponder the worthwhile, practical advice Kerr, Herald Tribune presented when he advised theatre patrons to attend a bad movie in a large film house the day before attending Broadway. It might well be worth the legit theatre's interest to hire a movie house, and run for free to all would-be theatre patrons the worst movies that can be found. Anything and everything live should then look good.

Theatre Fact Chart presents up-to-minute data on current business and critical reaction on current Broadway & Off Broadway shows. Top week endprices, opening dates listed.

SUBSCRIBERS ONLY may write or phone for any other specific critical data and/or for specific details of late NYC reviews and Out of Town tryout reviews.

"C"-Critical-figures refer to percentage of PRO votes filed by 7NYC reviewers. PRO means show was recommended for entertaining and/or stimulating evening, not if critic predicted if show would be a commercial hit (earn back its investment.)

"B"- Business- figures refer to percentage of gross ticket sales last week and indicates current availability of tickets. Figures that follow, all in thousands of dollars, are gross capacity (CAP) and corrected Variety grosses of past weeks. Thus 100% B Cap \$80-\$80- means show was a sellout this week at \$80000, last week's gross was \$70,000, etc.

ADVISE & CONSENT Cort \$7.50 11/17/60	138 W 48 CI 5-4289	70% C-2 Con-Times, Post-4 raves 95% B- Cap \$40--\$36 \$30 \$38 \$33 \$36
ALL WAY HOME Belasco \$7.50 11/30/60	111 W 44 JU 6-7950	70% C- 2 Con- News, WTS 40% B- Cap \$38--\$15 \$15 \$25 \$14 \$
BECKET Royale \$7.50 10/5/60	242 W 45 CI 5- 5760	90% C- 4 raves-1 Con- Times 75% B- Cap \$45--\$34 \$31- \$48
BEST MAN Morosco \$7.50 3/31/60	235 W 45 CI 6-6230	100% C- 7 pro- 3 raves 65% B- Cap \$41--\$26 \$24 \$39 \$23 \$20
BYE BYE BIRDIE Shubert \$8.60 4/14/60	225 W 44 CI 6-5990	90% C- 1 Con- Times- rest raves 70% B- Cap \$60--\$43- Moved -54th St
CAMELOT Majestic \$9.40 12/3/60	245 W 44 CI 6-0730	40% C- 3 Pro-News, WTS, J Am 100% B- Cap \$84--\$84 * \$84 \$86 \$84
CRITICS CHOICE Barrymore \$7.50 12/14/60	247 W 47 CI 6-0390	40% C- 3 Pro-News, J Am, WTS 95% B- Cap \$40--\$35 \$23 \$21 \$22 \$22
DO RE MI St James \$9.40 12/26/60	246 W 44 LA 4-4664	90% C- 1 Con- WTS- 5 raves-Times mild 100% B- Cap \$70--\$70 \$70 \$71 \$69
FIORIELLO Broadhurst \$9.40 11/23/59	235 W 44 CI 6-6699	100% C- 5 raves-Post, WTS mild book 75% B- Cap \$58-\$44 \$43 \$59 \$47 \$43
GYPSY Imperial \$9.40 5/2/59	249 W 45 CO 5-2412	100% C- 7 pro-J Am milder book 55% B- Cap \$64--\$35 \$31 \$62 \$24 \$29
INVITATION TO MARCH M Box \$7.50 10/29/60	239 W 45 CI 5-9850	30% C- 2 Pro- News, J Am 25% B- Cap \$40--\$11 \$10 \$40 \$13 \$21

IRMA LA DOUCE Plymouth \$8.60 9/28/60	236 W 45 CI 6-9156	90% C- 1 Con- H Trib 100% B- Cap \$49--\$48 \$44 \$51 \$48 \$48
MIKE & ELAINE Golden \$6.90 10/8/60	246 W 45 CI 6-6740	100% C- 7 pro for 2 person revue 100% B- Cap \$30--\$30 \$27 \$37 \$30 \$26
MIRACLE WORKER Playhouse \$7.50 10/19/60	137 W 48 CI 5-6060	100% C- 5 raves-Times, WTS milder 65% B- Cap \$38--\$26 \$25 \$36 \$25 \$21
MUSIC MAN Broadway \$8.05 12/19/57	1681 Bway CI 7-7992	100% C- 6 raves- H Trib milder 40% B- Cap \$72--\$30 \$32 \$60 \$25 \$25
MY FAIR LADY Heller \$8.05 3/15/56	235 W 51 PL 7-7064	100% C- 7 raves Play-News OK P Charls 50% B- Cap \$70--\$36 \$36 \$65 \$35 \$28
PERIOD OF ADJUSTMENT Hayes \$7.50 11/10/60	206 W 46 CI 6-6380	70% C- 2 Con- Times, WTS 35% B- Cap \$43--\$18 \$14 \$23 \$14 \$15 \$24
RHINOCEROS Longacre \$6.90- 1/9/61	220 W 48 CI 6-5639	90% C- 1 Con- Mirror 60% B- Cap \$37--\$21
SHOW GIRL O'Neill \$7.50 11/12/61	230 W 49 CI 6-8870	70% C- 2 Con- Mirror, Post Cap \$45
SOUND OF MUSIC Lunt \$9.90 11/16/59	205 W 46 JU 6-5555	90% C- 1 Con- H Trib- 3 raves 100% B- Cap \$74--\$75 \$74 \$77 \$75 \$75
TASTE OF HONEY Lyceum \$6.90 10/4/60	149 W 45 JU 6-9854	70% C- 2 Con- News, Mir 65% B- Cap \$32--\$20 \$17 \$30 \$18 \$19
TENDERLOIN 46th St \$8.60 10/17/60	226 W 46 CI 6-4271	30% C- 2 Pro-News, WTS (both raves) 75% B- Cap \$64--\$44 \$34 \$50 \$36 \$47
TENTH MAN Ambass \$7.50 11/5/59	215 W 49 CO 5-1855	100% C- 7 pro-2 raves-News, Times Moved from Booth
TOYS IN ATTIC Hudson \$7.50 2/25/60	141 W 44 JU 6-2237	100% C- 5 raves-Times, J Am milder 40% B- Cap \$40--\$15 \$12 \$12 \$12 \$12
UNDER YUM YUM Miller \$7.50 11/16/60	124 W 43 BR 9-3970	40% C- 3 Pro- News, Times, WTS 40% B- Cap \$40--\$15 \$19 \$10 \$12 \$16
UNSINKABLE M BROWN W Garden \$9.40 11/3/60	1634 Bway CI 5-4878	70% C- 2 Con- News, Mir 95% B- Cap \$68--\$63 \$59 \$52 \$60 \$65
WILDCAT Alvin \$9.40 12/16/60	250 W 52 CI 5-5226	40% C- 3 Pro-News, Mir, WTS 100% B- Cap \$65--\$65 \$57 \$67 \$58

OFF BROADWAY

BALCONY Circle \$4.50 3/3/60	159 Bleecker GR 3-3950	3 Pro- Times, Post, WTS 3 Con- H Trib, News, J Am
BEAUTIFUL DREAMER Mad Av \$4.60 12/27/60	120 Mad. MU 6-8574	5 Pro- 1 Con- J Am (No Mirror)
BALLET BALLADS East 74- \$4.40 1/3/61	334 E 74 LE 5-5557	4-Pro-Times, News, WTS, J Am 2 Con- H Trib, Post
EPITAPH G DILLON Actor Play \$4.60 12/28/60	100-7th Av S OR 4-1036	3 Pro- Times, Post, WTS 3 Con- H Trib, News, J Am
FANTASTICKS Sullivan \$4.60 5/3/60	181 Sullivan OR 4-3838	5 Pro- 1 Con- H Trib (No Mirror)
HEDDA GABLER 4th St \$4.60 11/9/60	83 E 4 AL 4-4795	7 Pro- Unanimous raves Anne Meacham
KRAPPS LAST TAPE Cricket \$4.60 1/14/60	162-2nd Av OR 4-3960	6 Pro- (No Mirror)
LEAVE IT TO JANE Sher Sq \$5 5/25/59	99-7th Av S CH 2-9244	5 Pro- 2 Con- H Trib, News
LITTLE MARY SUNSHINE Orpheum \$4.95 11/18/59	126-2nd Av OR 4-8140	6 Pro- 4 raves- No Mirror
THE MIRACLE Bway Chapel 12/4/6	211 W 56 CI 7-0387	1 Pro- Times- 1 Con- WTS Sun 5 PM Only to 2/5
MONTERRAT Gate \$3.90 1/8/61	162-2nd Av OR 4-8140	5 Pro- No News, Mirror
MOUSETRAP Maidman \$5.75 11/5/60	416 W 42 BR 9-3970	5 Pro- 2 Con- News, WTS
PREMISE Premise \$4.60 11/22/60	154 Bleecker LF 3-5020	3 Pro- News, J Am, WTS 3 Con- Times, H Trib, Post
RULES OF GAME Gram Arts \$4.60 12/19/60	138 E 27 MU 6-9630	4 Pro- Times, H Trib, WTS, Post 2 Con- News, J Am
3 PENNY OPERA De Lys \$4.95 9/20/54	121 Chris WA 4-8782	3 Pro- Times, H Trib, Post
LIVING REPERTORY Living \$3.45	530-6th Av CH 2-4569	Connection- 5 Con-1 Pro- Post 7/5/59 Theatre Chance-1 Pro- Post 6/22/60 Jungle Cities- 4 Pro-2 Con- 12/20/60

NYC THEATRE CALENDAR

American Dream-York 1/24	Roots- Mayfair- 3/1
Octoroon- Phoenix- 1/27	Night at Grand Guignol- 3/1
Julia, Jake & Uncle Joe-Booth 1/28	13 Daughters- 54th St 3/2
Midgie Purvis- Beck- 1/30	Mary, Mary- Hayes 3/8
Call Right Name- 1 Sher Sq- 1/30	Devil's Advocate- Rose 3/9
O' Oysters!- Village Gate- 1/31	Big Fish, Little Fish 3/12
How To Make Man- 1/30?	Hamlet- Phoenix 3/16
Elsa Lanchester-Herself-41st 2/2	Donnybrook- 3/17
There is a Play Tonight-Jewel Box 2/6	Happiest Girl World- Beck 3/30
Faust- C Center- 2/7	Whole Darn Shooting Match-4/3
Cicero- St Marks- 2/8	Carnival- 4/13
Moon in Yellow River-East End 2/8	Carte Blanche-Shubert 5/7
King of Dark Chamber-Jan Hus 2/9	Richard II- C Park 6/19
Electra- Gate 2/12	
To Damascus- T East 2/13	
Once Was Russian- 2/15	A Cook for Mr General 10/5
Tiger Rag- C Lane 2/16	9 O Clock Theatre-Golden 10/8
Double Entry- Martingue 2/20	
Comedie Francaise-C Center 2/21	
Come Blow Your Horn-Atkinson 2/22	
Far Country- 2/25	
Connelly vs. Connelly -Blackfriars 2/7*	
Red Roses for Me- G Mews 2/7	

"CD PROS & CONS"

PROS: All current ON & OFF Broadway productions except following:

CONS: Camelot, Critic's Choice, Invitation to a March, Sound of Music
Tenderloin, Tenth Man
Beautiful Dreamer



This weekly NYC THEATRE NEWSLETTER DIGEST SERVICE-now in its 11th year of service to theatre teachers, students, professional-college drama departments, community theatres, college and public libraries--presents each week of the year a concise 15 minute summary of all theatre news, comments, reviews, etc- published in the past week's 2100 pages of 7 NYC daily newspapers. Plus weekly "Outer Broadway Theatre Letter" supplement giving exclusive coverage of outstanding College, Community, Summer theatre productions coast to coast. Also free critical research on specific data and/or on specific details of late NYC theatre reviews and Out of Town tryout reviews via mail, phone. \$25 per year for full service. Back volumes available from Oct 1956 \$25 per year. "CD" is the perfect theatre gift.

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OUTER BROADWAY
THEATRE LETTER

College-----Community----Summer

Jan 23, 1961 Vol XII No 44 The Weekly Supplement of "Critical Digest"-139 E 47, NYC El 5-6894 \$25 per year for full "CD" Service

College Theatre

University of Redlands, Calif, Drama Trio will present Lower than Angels by Albert Johnson at Riverside Church, NYC Jan 29 at 8 PM, free admission. Group, currently on its seventh nationwide tour, will also present Jan 25 Roger Williams and Mary, Jan 26 Conquest in Burma, and Jan 27 Whirlwind all by Johnson, the head of drama department of University of Redlands.

The Royal Gambit with Sam Wanamaker as guest artist is current attraction at Goodman Theatre School of Drama, Chicago.

Winter Repertory

San Juan, Puerto Rico, Drama Festival resumed with On Borrowed Time starring Boris Karloff after suspending Auntie Mame starring Gypsy Rose Lee after its fourth performance. Equity's executive secretary Angus Duncan made an agreement with the local Puerto Rican Assn of TV Artists and Technicians and producer Barry Yellin giving the actors an increase of \$11 per week to include 2% dues to the local union weekly. Pickets have been withdrawn from the theatre.

Circuit of theatres at shopping centers to be played by North Jersey Playhouse, Paramus, NJ production of Janus starring Jack Carson. Home base is an auditorium at Bergen Mall shopping center, and production will start tour at Big Town Center shopping area near Dallas, and also play at theatres in shopping centers in Houston and Oklahoma City.

The Theatre of Paul Vincent Carroll opens its tour at Four Arts Playhouse, Palm Beach this week with Helena Carroll, Dermot McNamara and Maggi McNellis... British Colonial Playhouse, Nassau, Bahamas to open 12 week season Feb 7 with Gazebo starring Robert Q Lewis, presented by Owen Phillips and Charles W. Teague.

Summer Playhouses

Pioneer Playhouse, Danville, Ky to present 10 new plays starting Jun 26. The plays will be selected by Advisory Committee to be announced and authors will be provided with transportation and living expenses during rehearsals and the one week of presentation. Scripts may be submitted by agents and organizations to Irving Strouse, Stage and Arena Guild, 110 W 55 St, NYC.

Dayton, Ohio, Memorial Hall, and Grist Mill Playhouse, Andover, NJ, listed for sale in current Variety ads... Musical Arena Theatre Assn. re-elected Robert Bishop 3d, president.

Shakespeare

Stratford-on-Avon season opens Apr 4 with Much Ado About Nothing directed by Michael Langham of the Canadian Shakespeare Festival. Following Apr 11 will be Hamlet, directed by Peter Wood, May 24 Richard III directed by William Gaskill with Dame Edith Evans, Christopher Plummer, July 4 As You Like It with Dorothy Tutin, Max Adrian, Aug 15 Romeo and Juliet directed by Peter Hall, Oct 10 Othello directed by Franco Zeffirelli with John Gielgud, Peggy Ashcroft. Both Gielgud and Ashcroft will also appear in The Cherry Orchard to be presented at the group's London Aldwych Theatre, directed in Dec by Michael Saint-Denis.

American Shakespeare Festival tour of Midsummer's Night Dream to curtail mid-western section of current tour in favour of stands this next month in Philadelphia, Wilmington, and closing in Washington Feb 25.

Inaugural Events

William Inge, Tennessee Williams, Arthur Miller, Thornton Wilder were invited by President Kennedy to the Inaugural events in Washington, D.C. They were among 150 leading figures in the arts and sciences listed.

London

Richard's Cork Leg a new play by Brendan Behan to be presented at Theatre Royal by Joan Littlewood in Feb. with both Leonard Field and Theatre Guild bidding for US rights... Waiting in the Wings by Noel Coward closed after 195 performances.

Drama Desk

Henry Murdock, drama critic of Philadelphia Inquirer, to cover both films and theatre after resignation of Mildred Morris, film critic.



BULLETIN
BOARD
EDITION

"Bulletin Board Edition" of "CD" will soon be available to college and community theatre subscribers on request at no extra cost. Printed on one side only it will be designed for posting to make "CD" available to staff, members, teachers, students, etc. Notice will soon be sent to college and community theatre subscribers asking if they want to receive either the "Bulletin Board Edition" or continue with the "News-letter Edition."

Paris

Turacel production of 18th century comedy presented by Theatre National Populaire featured musical tapes made by Duke Ellington and his orchestra. Short segments were played before and after speeches of characters... Comedie Franciase production of Britannicus to be featured on Feb US tour debuted.

US Repertory Tour

Barbara Barrie to portray title role in ANTA-State Dept production of The Miracle Worker, one of three presentations which will tour Europe starting in Mar. Tryouts start this week at Royal Poinciana Playhouse, Palm Beach, Fla Nancy Coleman, James Broderick, Paul Ballantyne, J Richard Jones and Joseph Boland complete the company.

Scottish Festival

Fifteen Strings of Money, traditional Chinese play adapted by James Forsyth to be presented Apr 22 at Festival-in the Hills-, Pitlochry, Scotland. Other plays to be presented include-- The Deep Blue Sea, The Circle, Mary Rose, a new adaptation of "The Misanthrope" entitled Slave of Truth and I Am Married a new comedy by Guglielmo Zorzi.

Australia

Americans Pat Finley and Frank Buxton head Australian cast of Bye, Bye Birdie opening Mar 4 in Melbourne, directed by NY stage manager Michael Thomas.

Road Shows

Donald Moffat and Christopher Cary signed for leads in The Hostage tour which opens in Toronto.

Calendar- Current Tours Tryouts

Once Upon a Russian- Playhouse- Wilmington- 1/26.

13 Daughters- Shubert, Philadelphia- 1/28

Current Road Shows

At the Drop of a Hat-Blackstone, Chicago- 1/23

Destry Rides Again- O Keefe, Toronto 1/16

Five Finger Exercise- Hanna, Cleveland - 1/16

J. B. - Biltmore, Los Angeles

Music Man- Civic, New Orleans

Raisin in the Sun-Geary, San Francisco.



FAMOUS FIRST NIGHTS

The Play's The Thing- Miller Theatre- 11/3/26, NY daily reviewers were delighted with Ferenc Molnar's new comedy, adapted by P. G. Wodehouse presented by Charles Frohman Company, whose managing director was Gilbert Miller. Holbrook Blinn doubled as star and director in cast which also included Catherine Dale Owen. It ran 126 performances at the Miller, and was revived the following year by Miller at the Empire for 24 additional performances with the same cast. The Apr 1948 revival presented by Gilbert Miller, Michael Ellis and James Russo at the Booth Theatre with Louis Calhern and Faye Emerson lasted only 30 performances. Two additional Equity Library Theatre revivals in 1952 and 1957 complete NY record for popular little theatre comedy. A recently discovered, unproduced play of Molnar's, entitled *There Is A Play Tonight* will be present Off Broadway Feb 6 at the new Jewel Box Theatre, 422 W 42nd St.

Times- J Brooks Atkinson- extraordinarily versatile play with Molnar spinning his gossamer threads leisurely, putting audience thoroughly at ease. Enjoyment not always constant, but author's complete relaxation, his remarkable understanding of situation, his coruscating dialogue, his sly innuendo refresh and exhilarate.

Sun- Gilbert Gabriel- wittily garnished dish of sex soufflé. Does not have unfailing spontaneity of "The Guardsman", but sometimes it takes even happier smacks at stage-folk, stagecraft than former did. Blinn's longest role acted with dash, properly suave and intelligent distinction.

World- E. W. Osborn- Two acts glided with suavity undoubtable and unmatchable, everything polished, witty, polite audacious and sophisticated. Third act the suavity turned to sparking, stinging, cartooning satirical farce. Blinn's immense, Catherine Dale Owen is truly captivating.

New Yorker- Charles Brackett- a comedy which a great many not awfully sophisticated people are going to love because "it's so sophisticated." Always a little more confident of its own smartness than reviewer is of its smartness. Blinn demonstration of his versatility is by doing a flawless John Drew. Genuine caviar, but spread in a parsimonious canape on slightly stale toast.

Theatre Magazine- Arthur Hornblow- Molnar in his lightest, most jocular mood. Blinn plays fat part to perfection, few actors in America who can play the blase, polished man-of-world with such perfect poise and charming insouciance.



TRYOUT CALENDAR

Once There Was a Russian-Wilmington 1/26, Washington 1/30

Come Blow Your Horn-Philadelphia 2/2

Mary, Mary- New Haven 2/8, Boston 2/13

The Devil's Advocate- Boston 2/6, Philadelphia 2/20

Happiest Girl in World-New Haven 2/18, Philadelphia 2/27



LATE NYC NEWS & REVIEWS

LATE NYC NEWS: The Wall closing notice withdrawn after Mrs Isaac Stern, wife of the violinist, raised \$20,000 in four days from fifteen friends to keep Millard Lampell's adaptation of the John Hersey novel open until Mar 4. Producer Kermit Bloomgarden announced that authors, directors and designers waived their royalties, that theatre owner Billy Rose had reduced the rental fee and that he had turned down his fee as producer... *Gypsy* and *Becket* resumed after one night lay-off to allow Ethel Merman and Lawrence Olivier to attend Washington, D. C. Inauguration Gala... *Call Me By My Rightful Name* moved debut forward to Feb 1... John Cromwell signed for *Mary, Mary*... Jane Connell to be featured in *Double Entry*... *All American* a new musical adaptation of "Professor Fodorski" novel by Robert Lewis Taylor, with book by Mel Brooks, music by Charles Strouse, lyrics by Lee Adams to be presented next Oct by Ed Padula-L Slade Brown... Roy Poole, Neil Fitzgerald and Phillippa Bevans signed for *The Moon in the Yellow River*... *Connelly vs Connelly* a new play by Rev Brendan Larnen to be presented Feb 17 by Blackfriars Guild... Circle in the Square opens its 10th anniversary celebration by honoring the first 25 patrons nightly who present back programs from any of their past productions with free admission to *The Balcony*, which advertises it is in its last three weeks.

A Banquet For the Moon- Theatre Marquee- 1/19-6 con-Times, Herald Tribune, News, Post, World Telegram & Sun, Journal American- filed on new play by John Cromwell, presented by Robert Woods, directed by Nola Chilton with Jean Sheperd, Jack Betts, Lee Firestone. Several did find many interesting ideas in this modern version of the Faust legend, but most felt play became confused and incoherent. Taubman, Times, thought play started promisingly with occasional witty notions, but feared authors invention ran thinner and dryer as the evening progressed, becoming weary. Times appraiser did complement leading actors, ingenious direction and sets, but concluded that author's fancy not equaled by his ambition. Morgenstern, Herald Tribune, also found frequent and sometimes witty diversions in the diatribe, though his muted fulminations are difficult, if not impossible, to transmute into a coherent play. Davis, News, doubts if three century old Faust legend can possibly survive another beating like this one. Watts, Post, enjoyed the first scene which was ingenious and entertaining, but did not enjoy the rest of the play in which humor and ingenuity was lacking at the variety of targets discussed. McClain, Journal American, agreed with colleagues that author had some fine ideas and suggested that with some control author and same players might have had a refreshing smash instead of an uneven play. Aston, WTS, admits he was not quite clear about anything involved in the production in play in which the humor did not come off.

Twelfth Night- Equity Library Theatre- 1/18, Aston, World Telegram & Sun, recommended lively revival of Bard's comedy, directed with plenty of horse-play, much leaping, slapping and shoving by Tom Gruenwald. He also plaudited cast members James Duncun, Philip J Smith, Gedde Smith, Sy Travers, Don Pomes.

